

EXHIBIT 1
(FILED UNDER SEAL)

Confidential Pursuant to Protective Order - Deposition of James R. Funk - 1/26/2018
In Re: National Hockey League Players' Concussion Injury Litigation

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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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4 IN RE: MDL No.14-2551
5 NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE (SRN/JSM)
6 PLAYERS' CONCUSSION INJURY
7 LITIGATION.

8 -----

9
10 VIDEOTAPE DEPOSITION OF JAMES R. FUNK

11 Friday, January 26, 2018

12 8:34 a.m.

13 Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

14 1440 New York Avenue, N.W.

15 Washington, D.C.

16 Sara A. Watt, RPR, RMR, CRR

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1 a threshold in the sense of a bright line above
2 which injury always occurs and below which injury
3 never occurs. So the word "threshold" is a little
4 fraught.

5 Q. With?

6 A. With ambiguity.

7 Q. As part of that project did you make an
8 assessment that certain collisions or impacts would
9 in fact result in brain injury?

10 A. No, I wouldn't put it that way. I would
11 say we made an assessment of the risk of brain
12 injury based on the biomechanical measurements we
13 recorded.

14 Q. And was the level of that risk of brain
15 injury based on these known values that you
16 described in the field or from literature?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. Outside of the pedestrian
19 protection project were there any other projects
20 you worked on in that position as a visiting
21 researcher in which you determined the risk of
22 brain injury from assessing testing?

23 A. I don't believe so.

24 Q. You're also a senior consultant at
25 Biocore; is that right?

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1 preceding April, 2017; is that right?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Okay. Do you know whether you submitted
4 an expert report in every one of these cases?

5 A. I probably did not.

6 Q. Okay. Do you have any idea as you look
7 at it here today how many of these you would not
8 have submitted an expert report for?

9 A. The majority probably would have a
10 report, but sometimes I'm not asked to write a
11 report.

12 Q. Can you tell me in how many of these
13 cases you were retained by the plaintiff as opposed
14 to the defendant?

15 A. I'm not sure. We could -- we could go
16 through them, I guess. It would be a majority
17 defense, but I have a -- I have a number of
18 plaintiff cases as well.

19 Q. Okay. Can you tell me which of these you
20 represented the plaintiff in?

21 A. Well, to be clear, I don't represent
22 anybody --

23 Q. I'm sorry, thank you.

24 A. -- in any of these cases. I would be
25 working for an attorney who represents a plaintiff.

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1 Q. Great clarification.

2 A. I do the same work regardless of which
3 side I'm working for.

4 Q. Sure.

5 A. Al-Nobani versus Cernov was a plaintiff
6 case. Oadeh, Firas versus Fagan was a plaintiff
7 case. Horn was a plaintiff case.

8 I'm not sure about all of these, but
9 those three were definitely plaintiff cases.

10 Q. Okay. Were any of these cases related to
11 head injuries sustained in sports?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Can you tell me which ones?

14 A. For example, the Doll case here is an
15 exercise equipment case that involved an eye
16 injury.

17 Q. Okay. Any others?

18 A. Hetzel involved a neck injury in golf.
19 Dennett involved a neck injury from a mechanical
20 bull. I'm including neck because there sometimes
21 is minor head injury, too.

22 I think that's -- that might be it.

23 Q. Do you -- strike that.

24 Have you testified in trial or deposition
25 in any cases since April, 2017, that aren't listed

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1 on this, since it's been nearly a year?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Can you tell me what those cases
4 are?

5 A. Not off the top of my head.

6 Q. Let me ask a different question maybe.

7 Can you tell me about how many there are?

8 A. It's maybe every month or two I might
9 have a testifying event, roughly, on average. So
10 there may be another, you know, five or ten. I'm
11 not sure exactly.

12 Q. And of the five or ten that have taken
13 place, would you have submitted expert reports in
14 the majority of those?

15 A. Probably. I'm -- again, I'm not certain.
16 I'd have to -- I'd have to see what the cases are.

17 Q. Do you recall whether any of them
18 involved head injury as the result of sports?

19 A. I don't.

20 Q. Is that something you would be able to
21 produce to counsel?

22 A. Yes. I --

23 Q. An up --

24 A. An updated testifying history, I can
25 produce.

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1 analysis. And, therefore, they are unable to match
2 their reconstructions to the actual event, because
3 you need to be able to match the pre- and the
4 post-impact motion.

5 And then the purpose of doing the
6 reconstruction is to get finer detail on what is
7 happening during the instant of impact, which is a
8 very brief span of time, too quick for video to
9 capture anything that's going on. That's the
10 purpose of the reconstructions.

11 If you only have half of the information,
12 you only know the speeds going in but you don't
13 know velocities coming out, then it's impossible to
14 know if you've accurately reconstructed that
15 impact.

16 Q. So your issue as to not accounting for
17 post-impact velocity is not that the equipment used
18 in the reconstruction may have allowed for some
19 post-impact movement. Your issue is that they
20 never measured the post-impact velocity of the
21 struck player in the video and, therefore, they
22 couldn't -- it didn't matter what equipment they
23 were using, they didn't have anything to match it?

24 MS. MILLER: Objection.

25 BY MR. RENZ:

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1 mean pre- and post-impact velocity in all six
2 degrees of freedom.

3 Q. Okay. And that is something that remains
4 available, does it not? The videos?

5 A. Oh, the videos exist, but they -- but the
6 vast majority that I've seen, there's only one
7 camera view, which was going to be insufficient to
8 get that level of information.

9 Q. Okay. And so do I understand your
10 testimony then to be that there is no way that a
11 person, based on the video that was used, could
12 ever have enough information to know whether the
13 reenactments matched the impacts on the video?

14 A. Yes, that's correct. The baseline
15 information of just having one camera view of all
16 these events just simply doesn't provide enough
17 information to do a thorough video analysis or a
18 reconstruction or any -- or a finite element model
19 or anything else.

20 Q. Do you know whether there was any other
21 video available?

22 A. No, I do not.

23 Q. Okay. If there was no other video
24 available, what is one to do? Is it simply
25 something that can't be done?

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1 A. Yeah, that's correct. Simply because you
2 don't have all of the information or test
3 capability to do something doesn't mean that you
4 should do it anyway. You have to design your study
5 so that you have the tools available to accomplish
6 your objectives. And that was not done here.

7 Q. Okay. And so until -- until such time as
8 the video footage that was available or used has
9 more than one camera angle on the impact, those
10 reconstructions and the resulting data are, in your
11 view, not scientifically sound?

12 MS. MILLER: Objection.

13 THE WITNESS: That's correct. And it
14 would take more than just finding another camera
15 view. Then the analysis would have to be redone.
16 The impactor methodology would have to be
17 redeveloped to correct those errors. The finite
18 element errors would have to be corrected.

19 And then in no circumstance is it
20 acceptable to take a finite element result and
21 extrapolate that to long-term brain damage.

22 BY MR. RENZ:

23 Q. I understand you have other concerns
24 about Dr. Hoshizaki.

25 In paragraph 32 of your declaration you

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1 A. There are, again, multiple compounding
2 errors at every stage of the analysis. And when
3 you add them up, they only get bigger and bigger as
4 they compound.

5 Q. And did you make a similar analysis for
6 any of the other components regarding the rate of
7 error?

8 A. Mr. Neale did an analysis of various
9 errors involved in the video analysis and produced
10 a -- found several errors and quantified them in
11 terms of the rate of error. Dr. Panzer looked at
12 the finite element modeling aspect of this and
13 quantified several errors as well.

14 So at many stages of the analysis I've
15 made an effort to quantify the rate of error.

16 Q. Is -- is one way to analyze -- is one
17 unit of measurement for a rate of error a standard
18 deviation between two measurements?

19 A. That would -- that could be a measurement
20 of repeatability, which would factor into the error
21 rate.

22 Q. In paragraph 33 of your declaration you
23 state that based upon your review the application
24 of overly simplistic theory created errors of
25 approximately 50 to 80 percent.

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1 modeling not giving you an absolutely correct
2 number. It would -- you would not know how to
3 scale from the tissue data to the finite element
4 output. So that would be wrong, no matter what.

5 Q. Unless you had the data set that UVA is
6 working on?

7 A. Correct.

8 MS. MILLER: Objection.

9 THE WITNESS: The nonexistent data set
10 may someday help to resolve it.

11 BY MR. RENZ:

12 Q. You state in paragraph 38 of your opinion
13 that the University College Dublin finite element
14 model is minimally validated and, to the extent
15 validated, it has large errors.

16 Do you see that?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. When you say it's been "minimally
19 validated," what is it that you understand has been
20 validated about that model?

21 A. My understanding is that this model, like
22 many others, is validated based on basically two
23 previous studies, biomechanical studies done, one
24 in which deformation is injured at a few discrete
25 points in the brain from a cadaver experiment with

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1 radiopaque markers, and one relating pressure
2 measurements to spill impacts.

3 And so together those studies provide a
4 little bit of validation, but it's far from
5 complete. That's why it's called a minimum level
6 of validation.

7 Q. Okay. In order for it to be fully
8 validated, you would want the data that we talked
9 about you say doesn't exist that UVA is working on?

10 A. Correct. Because all of these other
11 models out there are also validated against the
12 same data set, and yet those models that you might
13 call validated don't give the same results.
14 They're different from each other. And that's
15 because the validation data that exists is just not
16 sufficient to completely validate the model. It's
17 just a very minimal level of validation.

18 Q. The large errors that you refer to that
19 the model has, what are you -- what are those, in
20 your view?

21 A. That was described in Dr. Panzer's
22 report, where he actually looked at specific data
23 traces of the radiopaque markers in the study by
24 Warren Hardy that I just talked about, and compared
25 their traces to the UCD model outputs. And just

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1 Dr. Funk, in paragraph 39 you assert that
2 one of the assumptions of the finite element model
3 used by Dr. Hoshizaki is that it is isotropic,
4 while brain tissue is anisotropic.

5 Do you see that?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Is this information that -- this
8 information you know from your field?

9 MS. MILLER: Objection.

10 THE WITNESS: I know that brain tissue is
11 anisotropic from my field, yes, sir.

12 BY MR. RENZ:

13 Q. Okay. And that Dr. Hoshizaki's analysis
14 was using isotropic data, did you know that as well
15 just from your own knowledge?

16 A. No. I'm relying on Dr. Panzer for that,
17 for the analysis of this specific model. And he is
18 the one who determined that it has an isotropic
19 material model.

20 Q. Okay. So the first sentence is
21 Dr. Panzer. The second sentence, once you know
22 that, you believe it's false because you know from
23 your own knowledge that the brain is in fact
24 anisotropic?

25 A. Correct.

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1 Q. Thank you.

2 MS. MILLER: Objection. You guys,
3 please -- not you guys. You, please, let me have
4 time to object.

5 MR. RENZ: All right. I'm going to go
6 off the record.

7 VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off the record --

8 MS. MILLER: You want to take a break?

9 MR. RENZ: Yeah, I need to take one.

10 VIDEOGRAPHER: -- at the time of 10:56.

11 (Recess taken at 10:56 a.m.)

12 (Deposition resumed at 11:08 a.m.)

13 VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the video
14 record. The time, 11:08.

15 BY MR. RENZ:

16 Q. Dr. Funk, when we last spoke we were
17 speaking about paragraph 39 of your declaration.
18 And one of the questions I had was about isotropic
19 and anisotropic, that comparison of the first two
20 sentences and where that information came from.

21 Looking at the remainder of paragraph 39
22 of your declaration, can you tell me whether these
23 are assertions of -- that came from your knowledge
24 or are these assertions of Dr. Panzer?

25 MS. MILLER: Objection.

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1 THE WITNESS: In all of this, the general
2 principles that are articulated come from my
3 knowledge. The specific information relating to
4 this particular brain model comes from Dr. Panzer's
5 knowledge.

6 So the first sentence, as we discussed,
7 would be information Dr. Panzer provided, that the
8 model assumes an isotropic material. Second
9 sentence, that the brain is actually anisotropic,
10 is my personal knowledge.

11 The next sentence, that the axon fiber
12 tracts are stiffer along their axes, is my
13 knowledge. The next sentence is also my knowledge,
14 that that would therefore overpredict maximum
15 principal strain.

16 The next part is Dr. Panzer's knowledge,
17 because it relates to the specific UCD model that
18 was used. The fact that the GWV model assumes the
19 brain is softer than the standard model and,
20 therefore, overestimates MPS relative to the
21 original model, is my conclusion, as well as
22 Dr. Panzer's, of course. And the final sentence is
23 mine as well.

24 BY MR. RENZ:

25 Q. Thank you.

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1 as you think one ought to be?

2 A. Oh, several frames. I don't know. You
3 would have to look at the data specifically to see
4 what his behavior is.

5 Q. Okay. And then there's the impact that
6 would also take some time, true?

7 A. The impact time is very short. We looked
8 at Dr. Rousseau's thesis where he had numbers on
9 the order of 11 to 25 milliseconds.

10 Q. And does that sound accurate?

11 A. Yes. That's similar to a football helmet
12 impact.

13 Q. I'd like to ask you about paragraph 28 of
14 your declaration. In this paragraph you hold out
15 certain studies as exemplifying a different range
16 of measurements than the one that Hoshizaki
17 reached.

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And you include in that a video analysis
21 and computational modeling of concussive head pact
22 -- head impacts in Australian rules football and
23 rugby.

24 Do you see that?

25 A. Yes, sir.

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1 there.

2 BY MR. RENZ:

3 Q. But I'm talking about these past seasons.

4 A. I don't know the answer to that. You may
5 be right, it may not even be possible to get good
6 information from that.

7 Q. Is that your belief?

8 MS. MILLER: Objection.

9 THE WITNESS: I have not -- I don't know.
10 I haven't looked into that, the answer to that
11 question.

12 BY MR. RENZ:

13 Q. But -- but you believe that the
14 single-camera view of the video is, in and of
15 itself, insufficient and creates scientifically
16 unreliable results, right?

17 MS. MILLER: Objection.

18 THE WITNESS: In a large number of the
19 analyses that were done here, yes. That, alone,
20 renders the result scientifically unreliable.

21 BY MR. RENZ:

22 Q. And, therefore, at least as to those
23 impacts, there would be no way, at least according
24 to your view, that one could produce scientifically
25 reliable data on how hard those impacts were on the

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1 head?

2 A. Yes, that's correct. I mean, there are
3 lots of videos of concussions that are just not
4 good enough to reconstruct or to analyze.

5 MR. RENZ: I'm at a point -- I don't know
6 what the status is with lunch. I understand -- I
7 could break now or --

8 MS. MILLER: You want to break now and
9 have lunch?

10 MR. RENZ: I'm saying we could. I'm just
11 at a point.

12 MR. WYATT: You want me to go check
13 outside and see if it's out?

14 MS. MILLER: It's not out, but can we --
15 are we off the record?

16 VIDEOGRAPHER: Would you like to go off
17 the record?

18 MS. MILLER: Yeah.

19 VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off the record at a
20 time of 11:53.

21 (Lunch recess taken at 11:53 a.m.)

22 (Deposition resumed at 1:05 p.m.)

23 (Mr. Wyatt is not present.)

24 VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the video
25 record at the time of 1:05 p.m.

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1 Did you say that you can't measure strain
2 in the brain?

3 A. The strain displacement can be measured
4 in the brain through the method that Hardy used, of
5 the radiopaque markers. And strain can be
6 calculated in a rough way from that. But you can't
7 put a strain gauge on the brain. You can't measure
8 it that way directly.

9 Q. I see. I see what you're saying. Okay.

10 Have you used or referred to MPS, maximum
11 principal strain, as an indicator of any head
12 trauma in any prior publication?

13 A. I don't believe so, no.

14 Q. In any prior testimony?

15 A. Not that I can recall.

16 Q. Okay. The results that are in Figure 10
17 of Dr. Panzer's declaration, they show, for example
18 with head shake, a predicted maximum principal
19 strain of greater than 45 percent, despite the fact
20 that there was only a 4 g impact.

21 Do you see that?

22 A. Yes, I do.

23 Q. And I think this is the point of it, but
24 does that seem absurd to you?

25 A. That's exactly the point of it. It's

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1 completely absurd.

2 The point of this exercise was to take
3 the model, which is in some sense a black box, and
4 put in the input and see if it at least gives you
5 reasonable output for certain scenarios. It needs
6 to be able to discriminate injurious events from
7 non-injurious events to be scientific reliable,
8 scientifically reliable.

9 And in this case, putting in inputs for,
10 you know, plopping in a chair or shaking your head
11 or skipping rope produced strains that were
12 extremely high that would -- Dr. Hoshizaki would
13 say should result in concussion or serious brain
14 injury, but they're clearly from non-injurious
15 activities. So this demonstrates that the finite
16 element modeling is not accurate the way
17 Dr. Hoshizaki is using it.

18 Q. Have you, outside of this analysis and
19 this figure but in the course of your study and
20 your work, ever seen a strain that high from
21 variables this low?

22 A. I would definitely not expect brain
23 strains this high from the inputs this low.

24 Q. Have you ever seen anything like that in
25 all your time and your analysis?

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1 told me is that he used the model exactly as
2 Dr. Hoshizaki did and just simply took out the
3 inputs that Hoshizaki had put in and put these
4 other inputs in. And so it should -- there should
5 be no room for difference between the way he used
6 the model and the way Dr. Hoshizaki used it.

7 Q. Have you reviewed, in the course of your
8 work, the predicted or actual MPS resulting from
9 impacts?

10 A. I have read research papers in which
11 brain models are used and they would relate some of
12 these kinematic variables to material variables
13 like MPS. I am familiar with some of that
14 literature.

15 Q. Do you recall what the highest maximum
16 principal strain you have ever seen predicted when
17 there's been an impact of less than 5 g?

18 A. No, I don't recall.

19 Q. Okay. Are you aware of any literature
20 that supports MP -- predicted MPS results for these
21 everyday activities at the levels set forth here by
22 Panzer and documented in Figure 13 on page 36 of
23 your declaration?

24 A. No. That's the point. I think these MPS
25 levels are clearly in error.

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1 matter damage or protein release at the 5 to
2 8 percent strain state; is that right?

3 A. I don't remember if he was specifically
4 referring to those two things or not.

5 Q. Okay. What is -- when you talk about --
6 do you know what "functional alteration of a cell"
7 means?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. What do you believe -- what do you
10 understand that to mean?

11 A. That's an alteration in the function of
12 the cell.

13 Q. Okay. And is it in the function of the
14 cell -- is it in the ability of the function -- the
15 cell to function?

16 MS. MILLER: Objection.

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's -- that's
18 correct.

19 BY MR. RENZ:

20 Q. Okay. And do you believe that this is
21 subject matter within your field?

22 A. By and large, the -- this is outside of
23 my area, when we talk about the
24 immunohistochemistry and the protein deposits, that
25 sort of thing.

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1 Q. Okay. There's quite a bit of discussion
2 on it here, with a number -- in your declaration,
3 including in paragraph 42, with a number of
4 citations.

5 Do you see that?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Okay. And so you're comfortable making
8 the statements in this declaration about those
9 things even though they're outside your field?

10 A. Well, let me -- let me be clear about it.

11 I am -- this -- these studies are
12 biomechanical at least in part. They're all
13 interdisciplinary studies that involve biomechanics
14 and some immunohistochemistry and other types of
15 things.

16 The biomechanical portion is squarely
17 within my field of expertise and I certainly have
18 experience working with interdisciplinary teams
19 that do these other things. So I am qualified to
20 interpret the literature in this area. And my
21 opinions are really confined to the biomechanical
22 area and what those parts of the study mean.

23 Q. And so when you make statements like
24 "Electrophysiological disruptions in the axon at
25 these low levels of axonal strain have been

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1 reported to be reversible," you're making that
2 statement based on the authority cited or is that
3 also something that you would include in the
4 biomechanical field?

5 A. I'm making that statement based on the
6 authority cited.

7 Q. Okay. Even though it's not in your
8 field, you have enough experience that you're
9 comfortable using it?

10 A. Yes. I have -- for example, you know,
11 I've done nerve testing and modeling of action
12 potentials and measuring of electrophysiological
13 aspects of nerves. I am familiar with the -- with
14 that through my education, although it is not
15 something that I do in my day-to-day practice.

16 MS. MILLER: Please try to remember to
17 wait three seconds after a question, because I was
18 trying to object to that question. Never
19 succeeded. Thanks.

20 (Exhibit 7
21 marked for identification.)

22 BY MR. RENZ:

23 Q. Sir, I'm showing you what's been marked
24 as Exhibit 7 to your deposition. It is an article
25 entitled "Sodium Channelopathy Induced by Mild

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1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. And the last sentence of that
3 paragraph talks about the "Undulations typical of
4 axon injury were not observed in subthreshold
5 injuries but were present in all suprathreshold
6 populations."

7 Do you see that?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. Do you have any reason to disagree
10 with their conclusion?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. Would axon injury, in your view, be
13 enough to constitute injury?

14 A. Well, that, I think, is -- you're going
15 to have to give me more information to answer that
16 question.

17 Q. Sure. Could you --

18 A. I don't know what you mean.

19 Q. You're fine, that's fine. When that's
20 true, I want you to tell me. That's fine.

21 I'm kind of looking back, my question
22 stems out of your declaration paragraph 42, the
23 second sentence where you talk about the spectrum
24 of progressive cellular changes.

25 A. Yes, sir.

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1 Q. And you start by talking about impairment
2 and then -- and then you kind of move into damage
3 and failure. And so what I'm trying --

4 MS. MILLER: Oh -- sorry.

5 BY MR. RENZ:

6 Q. What I'm trying to understand is when I
7 look at Exhibit 7, this Yuen article, in the last
8 sentence in that first paragraph under "Results,"
9 and it talks about undulations typical of axon
10 injury, is axonal injury on the latter part of that
11 spectrum that it is damage or failure as opposed to
12 mere impairment?

13 MS. MILLER: Objection.

14 THE WITNESS: I think the word "injury"
15 has been used in this paper, for example, to refer
16 to electrophysiological impairment. So in the
17 context of this paper, then the calcium
18 channelopathy they describe as an injury. But it
19 would be along that spectrum of changes.

20 BY MR. RENZ:

21 Q. Is it your understanding that what Yuen
22 and her colleague -- I don't know if it's a he or
23 she, but what Yuen and its colleagues were
24 observing was not damage to brain cells at the
25 5 percent threshold?

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1 entire brain is below a level of strain that causes
2 any damage to any neuron, that that causes
3 permanent brain injury. Which is just logically
4 inconsistent and, therefore, scientifically
5 unreliable.

6 BY MR. RENZ:

7 Q. Okay. If you won't or can't venture what
8 the right tolerance would be to predict brain
9 injury, is it possible that Dr. Hoshizaki is
10 correct and you just don't feel that his basis is
11 sufficient?

12 MS. MILLER: Objection.

13 THE WITNESS: I think there is a lot of
14 evidence to indicate Dr. Hoshizaki is incorrect and
15 far too low in his number. A more reasonable
16 approach that is taken in all of the research
17 literature is to search for a more of a census
18 figure, a middle figure.

19 That's -- for example, Bain and Meaney in
20 their report do a statistical analysis where they
21 determine a certain level of strain represents a
22 certain risk of injury and come up with, you know,
23 conservative and liberal and optimal thresholds for
24 injury. And that would be a more typical research
25 approach, is to -- is to seek a more optimal or

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1 middle number than the very lowest number you can
2 find in any paper on any kind of nerve.

3 (Exhibit 8
4 marked for identification.)

5 BY MR. RENZ:

6 Q. Doctor, I'm showing you what's been
7 marked as Exhibit 8 for your deposition. It's
8 the -- it's an article by Bain and Meaney entitled
9 "Tissue-Level Thresholds for Axonal Damage in an
10 Experimental Model of Central Nervous System White
11 Matter Injury."

12 Is this the Bain and Meaney article that
13 you were just describing?

14 A. Yes, it is.

15 Q. And so the thresholds that you were also
16 describing are the ones they've labeled as some
17 liberal, some conservative, and some optimal, you
18 were suggesting a better measurement might be
19 something like the optimal?

20 A. Yes, that's one aspect of the
21 Dr. Hoshizaki's analysis that I'm criticizing.

22 But probably the larger problem with
23 relying on studies like this is that these are
24 animal studies and you can't -- it's highly
25 speculative to assume that a human brain or a human

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1 would be done is with cadavers?

2 MS. MILLER: Objection.

3 THE WITNESS: I'm not suggesting that
4 specifically. There are a number of approaches
5 that are taken in the research world. I guess
6 cadavers is one of them.

7 Q. Okay.

8 (Exhibit 9
9 marked for identification.)

10 BY MR. RENZ:

11 Q. Sir, I'm showing you what's been marked
12 as Exhibit 9 for your deposition. It is a
13 correction to your declaration with your signature.

14 Do you recognize this document?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. And in it, it talks about deleting
17 a particular footnote from your declaration,
18 specifically the -- or, excuse me, a sentence and
19 the accompanying footnote that says "The lowest
20 axonal strain level at which morphological damage
21 has been shown to initiate is 14 percent"; is that
22 right?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Why did you make that correction?

25 A. Well, we just reviewed the Yuen study

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1 that I noticed afterwards does make a reference to
2 morphological changes at a lower strain rate.

3 Again, I am critical of the entire
4 approach of just simply scouring the literature
5 looking for the lowest possible number you can
6 find, but -- because it's highly variable,
7 depending on different kinds of cells and tissue
8 preparations. But, in fact, there is one paper
9 that did show morphological damage at less than
10 14 percent.

11 Q. Okay. What was that?

12 A. The Yuen paper. We just --

13 Q. Oh, yes, right.

14 A. The one we just talked about.

15 Q. Would you look at the Bain and Meaney
16 article again, please, at page 619.

17 In the paragraph immediately above the
18 bolded "Thresholds For Electrophysiological
19 Impairment," do you see that paragraph that's right
20 above that?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Says "The area under the ROC curve was
23 .95, suggesting that optic nerve strain is a very
24 good predictor of morphological injury."

25 Do you see that?

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1 design study for your published work?

2 A. I don't believe so.

3 Q. It's your -- do I understand you

4 correctly that you assert that the analysis

5 performed by Dr. Hoshizaki in this matter was a

6 case-control design study?

7 MS. MILLER: Objection.

8 THE WITNESS: It's -- his -- whether it's

9 case control or whatever his intent was, it's the

10 same effect. There's a massive sampling bias in

11 his approach. He does not have a cohort study, and

12 that's what's required. So without a cohort, then

13 it's not possible to get an absolute risk estimate.

14 BY MR. RENZ:

15 Q. Is it your understanding that

16 Dr. Hoshizaki's report reported on all the impacts

17 videoed in a game and then -- well, just leave it

18 at that.

19 MS. MILLER: Objection.

20 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure I understand

21 your question exactly.

22 BY MR. RENZ:

23 Q. Is it your understanding when you make

24 these statements about Dr. Hoshizaki's studies,

25 et cetera, in relation to whether there was a

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1 cohort study and a case-control design, is it your
2 understanding that his analysis reviewed all
3 impacts that were videoed in the games that were
4 analyzed?

5 A. Oh, in terms of his video analysis, I
6 think he did try to get a representative sample.
7 But that is a different area of the study than what
8 I'm talking about here.

9 Q. Okay. Is it your assertion that the data
10 in Dr. Hoshizaki's analysis and declaration was
11 injury specific?

12 MS. MILLER: Objection.

13 THE WITNESS: I don't understand the
14 question.

15 BY MR. RENZ:

16 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that
17 Dr. Hoshizaki did not report all impacts,
18 regardless of injury, in his study?

19 MS. MILLER: Objection. What -- can you
20 explain what you mean by "all impacts"?

21 MR. RENZ: All right.

22 MS. MILLER: Just because the whole basis
23 of the study is that he selected impacts, I
24 literally don't understand that question.

25 MR. RENZ: Okay. I will try and reword

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1 it.

2 MS. MILLER: Okay.

3 BY MR. RENZ:

4 Q. Is it your assertion that Dr. Hoshizaki
5 did not report all the impacts observed in the game
6 footage, regardless of whether they resulted in
7 injury, when he did his video analysis?

8 A. I don't recollect that he had any
9 injuries that he reported on. And I'm -- to the
10 extent I understand your question, I don't have any
11 information that he selectively excluded data, if
12 that's what you're suggesting.

13 Q. I'm just -- I want to make sure that I
14 understand the contours of what you were talking
15 about when you say that he did not have a
16 representative sampling. I understand your issue
17 isn't necessarily with the video part. I'm trying
18 to eliminate that.

19 A. Oh, then that's fine. No, I'm not
20 talking about the video part at all in this
21 paragraph.

22 Q. Okay. In paragraph 51, Dr. Funk, you
23 describe having conducted a study comparing risk
24 curves using HITS data from a cohort study to
25 analogous curves based on a case-control

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1 nerve stretch studies. It kind of corresponds to
2 the Figure 9, was it, in my declaration, with the
3 green and the blue bars. That's what the colors
4 indicate, the green being electrophysiological
5 impairment, and the blue being morphological
6 damage.

7 Q. Do you have a reason to believe that the
8 Yuen, not Yu, the Yuen study, is scientifically
9 unreliable?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Okay.

12 (Exhibit 15
13 marked for identification.)

14 BY MR. RENZ:

15 Q. Sir, I'm showing you what's been marked
16 as Exhibit 15 to your deposition.

17 Do you recognize this document?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Could you please tell me what it is.

20 A. This is a printout of a spreadsheet I
21 made that I used to calculate the values depicted
22 in the charts in Figure 2, 3, and 4 of my report,
23 regarding the effective mass calculations in the --
24 for the impactor development study that we
25 discussed earlier.

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1 manner the number of times that an NHL player in
2 prior seasons has received a head impact of a
3 certain impact value or strain value?

4 MS. MILLER: Objection. Asked and
5 answered.

6 THE WITNESS: Again, I -- that's so
7 hypothetical, I would just need a lot more
8 information to answer that question.

9 BY MR. RENZ:

10 Q. I mean, what I'm trying to -- what I'm
11 trying to figure out from you, Doctor, is that I
12 understand that you have concerns with
13 Dr. Hoshizaki's use of Yuen's article in setting
14 that 5 percent level.

15 But outside of making a correlation to
16 injury, is it -- do you believe that it's possible,
17 in a scientifically valid manner, to measure the
18 impact of hits in prior games in the seasons that
19 we're talking about, in a scientifically valid
20 manner?

21 MS. MILLER: Objection. Same objections.

22 THE WITNESS: I think --

23 MS. MILLER: Objection to form and asked
24 and answered.

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, I think we're going

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1 back to a previous discussion. And based on the
2 information that I've seen, which consists of no
3 sensor data and a single camera view of various
4 impacts, that's not enough.

5 BY MR. RENZ:

6 Q. Do I understand your assertions correctly
7 that one of the reasons you believed accounting for
8 post-impact velocity is important is that it
9 properly accounts for the difference between direct
10 blows and glancing blows?

11 MS. MILLER: Objection.

12 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

13 BY MR. RENZ:

14 Q. Can the dynamic headform, coupled with a
15 compliant neck and sliding table, account for
16 direct versus glancing blows?

17 MS. MILLER: Objection.

18 THE WITNESS: It can't match something
19 that's not measured. You can certainly hit
20 something directly or with a glancing blow, but you
21 can't accurately reproduce a blow that you don't
22 know what occurred in it. In other words, if you
23 only have an impact velocity, you know, a velocity
24 in, then you don't know whether that was a direct
25 blow or a glancing blow.

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1 accelerations. So having those nine accelerometers
2 doesn't do you any good if you don't have the
3 necessary input to the test.

4 Q. Which you believe has to include the
5 post-impact velocity?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Do you have any dispute that the dynamic
8 headform and its responsiveness have been
9 validated?

10 A. Are you talking about the Hybrid III --

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. -- headform? Yes, it has been validated
13 to some extent.

14 Q. Would you turn to page 21 of your
15 declaration, please.

16 MS. MILLER: Page?

17 MR. RENZ: Sorry, paragraph, you're
18 right.

19 MS. MILLER: I didn't know. I wasn't
20 right.

21 BY MR. RENZ:

22 Q. You state that "The stiffness of the
23 other player's body was reproduced by a
24 commercially available ice hockey pad on the
25 impactor face."

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

IN RE: NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
PLAYERS' CONCUSSION INJURY
LITIGATION

This Document Relates to: ALL ACTIONS

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) MDL No. 14-2551 (SRN/JSM)
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CORRECTION TO DECLARATION OF DR. JAMES R. FUNK

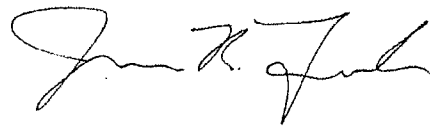
Paragraph 42 of my declaration should be revised to delete the following sentence and its accompanying footnote: "The lowest axonal strain level at which morphological damage has been shown to initiate is 14%."

This change does not affect my overall opinions.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 8th day of August, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



James Funk, PhD, PE